(C O P Y)

December 16, 1925

S
Insect Control

The Forester,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is our annual report on the insect situation in this District. The Apache, Coconino, Tusayan and Tonto National Forests report the insect situation as normal. The following statement will cover each of the other Forests. These to an extent constitute a brief progress report and should be considered in connection with last year's report.

CROOK

The infestation by tent caterpillars mentioned in our last year's report has not increased and warrents no special action.

SITGREAVES

The browning of the needles mentioned in last year's report as occurring on the Deer Springs Unit in the vicinity of Decker Wash is not so pronounced and apparently is not serious. The situation elsewhere is normal.

GILA

The infestation on the Pinos Altos District which was examined by Mr. W. D. Edmonston April 8 to 11, 1923, and diagnosed as D. convexifrons and D. barberi has not changed materially. While endemic conditions continue, special action is not needed. Conditions on the rest of the Forest are normal.

MANZANO

Two areas of Dendroctonus infestation were referred to last year which had been examined a year previously by Dr. Edmonston.

The first is on the south end of the Sandia Mts. where it was estimated that a thousand trees had been killed during the preceding three years. No control measures were thought practicable. The situation remains about the same.

The second area is somewhat smaller and is near the Tajique Ranger Station where Edmonston found some two hundred trees killed. About a section is involved. On the basis of Edmonston's examination control measures were thought justifiable and desirable at an estimated cost of $250.00. We requested an allotment for this purpose, but so far as I find no action was taken or reference made by your office to this request. The situation remains about the same and there is as much need for control measures now as then.

The Supervisor also reports an area of six to eight sections on Chupedera Mesa in the woodland type where 25% of the pinon and juniper is dead or dying. Ips is at least partly responsible. The situation has probably been aggravated by drought.

LINCOLN

Please refer to last year's report and to our letter of September 9. Without repeating all of the detail given in the latter, a summarized statement of the situation is as follows:

Capitan Mts:

This area has been examined once by Mr. Edmonston, and other local examinations and surveys in some detail have been made. Unfortunately the economic inaccessibility of the timber militates against control measures. The Supervisor reports that this situation has become worse this year, which is contrary to previous expectations.

Sacramento Division, western yellow pine type:

Alarming endemic conditions exist throughout the type, in some cases assuming epidemic proportions on areas up to forty acres or more. On these particular areas the damage is very severe. In some places the beetles are attacking 30-year old reproduction. The situation appears to be serious also on the adjoining Mescalero Indian Reservation. Dendroctonus barberi, convexifrons, as well as Ips, have been identified.

Sacramento Division, Douglas fir type:

This involves epidemic conditions over approximately 2000 acres at the head of Wills, Hubbell, Scottabel and Logan Canyons. The insect, a defoliator, has been identified as geometridae. The damage is severe. The Supervisor reports that it is spreading, although not as noticeably as a year ago. Trees which appeared dead a year ago have put out needles this spring on the larger branches.

Sacramento Division, Woodland type:

The situation described in my letter of September 9, appears to be getting better rather than worse.

In general the Lincoln situation appears to be distinctly alarming. It should be examined by a qualified entomologist.

CARSON

The spruce bud worm infestation on the Amarilla Division which was reported last year seems to be slowly dying out.

The situation as to the cone weevil infestation on the east side of the Amarilla Division remains unchanged. We described the cone weevil situation on the east side of the Amarillo Division in some detail last year, and suggested a scientific study by the Bureau of Entomology. We do not find that any action upon this was taken. The suggestion is renewed.

The Dendroctonus infestation in Garapata Canyon apparently has died down. Efforts, so far unsuccessful, will be continued to salvage the attacked timber by sale or free use.

SANTA FE

The Supervisor reports that the spruce bud worm infestation which was reported for the first time in 1924, shows signs of materially abating on the forest as a whole. Observations of this office are that it is particularly heavy along the Rio Las Vacas watershed on the Jemez Division, where it is estimated something like 100,000 acres are now being attacked. The white fir seems to be the first choice of the worm, with Douglas fir second and Engelmann and blue spruce third. It is the opinion of this office that the budworm infestation will eventually spread throughout the fir type on the Jemez Division and then die out the same as is happening on the Carson Forest. No Dendroctonus attacks are reported.

DATIL

A serious situation exists on the Dtail Forest according to the Supervisor's report. About eight townships are particularly affected. These involve several areas in the Datil, Magdalena and San Mateo Mts. and also on the headwaters of the Gila River in the southern part of the Forest. The percent of the trees affected varies from a very low figure to as high as 75%. In the San Mateo and Magdalena Mts. it is estimated that on some of the infested areas 35% of the timber has been killed. The situation has been greatly aggravated by the large blowdown of December, 1923/

Unfortunately, these areas are so difficult to work on an economic basis that the justification of control measureis problematical. However, we need an examination by an entomologist.

PRESCOTT

The Supervisor reports an infestation on the Carmichael sale area in the yellow pine type south of Prescott. He plans to cut the infested trees on this area and burn all the brush. It seems typical of the Prescott Working Circle that wherever there is a little cutting, an unusual amount of insect infestations, particularly Ips follows. Attention will be given to prompt clean up of brush, and the Supervisor also believes it necessary to suspend cutting operations during June and July. This office is not informed as to the efficacy of this measure, and we would appreciate advice from your office or the Bureau of Entomology. A field examination would be desirable if an entomologist were available.

CORONADO

The Supervisor reports two beetle infested areas, one on the crest of Rincon Mts. and the other in Whitehouse Canyon in the Santa Rita Mts. Detailed information is lacking, but I judge that these are small areas. The Supervisor proposes to visit both of these areas, which are in the vicinity of Tucson, with Mr. Hofer of the Bureau of Entomology who is stationed at Tucson for the winter. This office is not sure as to Mr. Hofer's qualifications but apparently the visit can be made without much expense or time, and I assume without any special authorization from the Bureau of Entomology.

Aside from the specific areas mentioned in this letter insect-infested trees are found scattered throughout most of the western yellow pine type in the District. If anything, I should say that these endemic conditions have been aggravated during the past year or two perhaps as a result of drought conditions.

Last year we emphasized the seriousness of the tip moth, which is seriously interferring with the proper development of western yellow pine seedlings on the Sitgreaves, Coconino and Tusayan Forests. Unfortunately, there appears to be no remedial action.

While we appreciate the proposed visit of Mr. Keen to this District in the spring, referred to in Mr. Howard's letter of October 7, we do not believe that a biennial very bried trip in the district by a qualified entomologist is adequate to give us the necessary advice. We had thought that we would meet the situation much better than hitherto by the transfer of Mr. Edmonston from Tucson to Albuquerque, to which reference was made a year ago. Apparently, however, Mr. Edmonston has not spent any time in Albuquerque, nor is he likely to do so. We hope that Mr. Keen can really spend enough time in the District in the spring to size up the situation in fairly thorough shape. If not, we hope that some further detail can be arranged.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK C.W.POOLER, District Forester,

By (s) R. E. Marsh, Acting